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SOME WONDER WHY WE HAVE HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK *

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Yesterday, May 4, marked the opening of National Home Demonstration Week, when $3\frac{1}{2}$ million homemakers in the 48 States, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico are celebrating this event.

Possibly there are folks who wonder why we have Home Demonstration Week at all.

If that's as far as we go, then it's high time we had more Home Demonstration Weeks . . . because the Home in Home Demonstration Week belongs to you.

In other words, the whole purpose of setting aside a definite week, May 4 to 11, is to tell more people about home demonstration work. The best way to do that is to describe what homemakers are doing right here in this State. And there are 100 counties in North Carolina and 3,000 other counties in the United States that have the same idea. At the same time, it applies whether you live in town or on the farm.

And don't let anybody tell you it doesn't concern the men . . . for it does . . . good homes are for everybody who lives in them . . . not just good food on the table but safety, health, convenience, and pleasant recreation.

It's all in the home demonstration picture. In North Carolina there are 2,221 such clubs with an enrollment of 56,021 women. Together they work voluntarily on projects chosen by the women themselves . . . such as foods and family nutrition, better buying practices, making new clothes from old, ironing the easiest way, tailoring, upholstering, and interior decoration. They're constantly making inroads on household drudgery by modernizing rooms and placing heavy loads on wheels . . . simplifying work. They stave off that rainy day by developing home budgets, aiding with the financial planning for the family, while setting aside a nest egg for the children's education and for security in old age.

Mrs. Edison Davenport, past president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs, expresses it this way: "A happier, more efficient and more beautiful home is the goal of every home demonstration clubwoman, but in striving to reach that goal, let us remember in this National Home Demonstration Week that the most important room in any home is the room for self-improvement."

* Talk given May 5, 1947, over station WPTF, Raleigh, N.C.

And there is a community side of home demonstration work, too. School lunch projects, health clinics, libraries, playgrounds, parks, hospitalization insurance, telephone facilities, farm women's markets, and beautification of church grounds are only a few of the undertakings that are being carried out right now by club members and their leaders.

And since the theme this year is "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World," you can rightfully expect the womenfolks to have an interest in the international situation and better understanding of homes and home life in other lands. They're doing something about it, not just "talking" . . . sending food and clothes to needy areas, corresponding with homemakers overseas . . . attending meetings for a discussion of the United Nations Council and other international organizations.

And this helps to make up the sum total of home demonstration. The whole plan is to help us to help ourselves and each other, in the common interest of better homes and better communities for us all, and we look forward to future progress. I quote from Mrs. P. P. Gregory, third vice president of the State Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs:

"I would ask all to believe in the atomic force of home demonstration clubwomen in North Carolina in bringing about a more abundant farm life, happier homes, a greater appreciation of aesthetic values around us, and the power to accomplish as much as can be done anywhere on earth by any organization of people."

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